

– REMARKS OF PAUL D. FRAIM –
SLOVER LIBRARY FIRST OFFICIAL BOOK CHECKOUT
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2015
10:00 AM

Good Morning... and thank you for joining us to celebrate the grand opening of the Slover Library.

With me this morning are Jane Batten, Frank Batten Jr., Chairman and CEO of Landmark Media Enterprises, and Herb Newman, Principal at Newman Architects.

I would also recognize the presence of my fellow councilmembers, City Manager Marcus Jones, Slover Library Foundation President, Harry Lester, and all who have come to share in this momentous occasion, including Ray Gindroz and Michael Scott – the unsung heroes of this project.

Since the age of Aristotle, libraries have been esteemed as centers of knowledge, guardians of history, repositories of literature, and the archives for civilizations.

More recently, libraries have adapted to a new age – an age of computers and digital information – and have become forums for community engagement and interactive learning.

The Slover library was designed to serve all of these purposes – and it is, quite simply, a stunning achievement.

The \$65 million dollar building seamlessly integrates three centuries of architecture into a masterpiece that is both awe-inspiring and welcoming. It mixes traditional library functions with innovative technology and unique public spaces for the entire community.

In keeping with the wishes of its benefactor, the Batten family, Slover is the most technologically advanced library in the country.

It features free Wi-Fi, a giant high definition media wall, digital media lab, interactive touch tables, and touch displays on the end of bookshelves.

There are over 130 public access computers, 160,000 books, a vast children's library and numerous meeting areas. The library also showcases our local history and genealogy through the Sargent Memorial Room, and it even has a bistro – Cuisine at Slover.

Simply put – this will be your new favorite place.

This project is the result of a great deal of teamwork, cooperation and planning by many different people.

It's also the result of one family's love for our historic seaport town, and so I want to thank the late Mr. Frank Batten, Jane Batten, and Frank Batten Jr. for their extraordinary \$40 million dollar donation.

Please join me in thanking the Batten family for their commitment to the Slover library and the citizens of Norfolk.

I would also like to express our appreciation for the design and construction teams led by Newman Architects, Tymoff Moss Architects, Archer Western Contractors, as well as Kent Bloomer and his staff for the ornamental artwork, and of course Ray Gindroz and Urban Design.

A number of organizations helped guide the project from start to finish: the Norfolk Public Library Board of Trustees, Norfolk Public Library Foundation, Friends of Norfolk Public Library, and the Slover Library Foundation. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

I also want to commend City Manager Marcus Jones and the city staff team – from numerous departments – who provided management and support along the way.

Together, we have built an institution that will serve the community well for generations to come.

It is now my pleasure to call to the podium Herb Newman, who will be followed by Mrs. Jane Batten.

Thank you. Jane, if you would, please join me for the first official book checkout in the Seaboard building.

The Slover Library is officially open! Explore and enjoy!